

Remarks

In the present RCE, claims 20-33 are presented for examination.

I. Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 20-22 and 24-30 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,385,376 (Bowers). Claim 23 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,385,376 (Bowers). These rejections are traversed.

Independent claim 20 recites numerous recitations that are not taught or suggested in Bowers. By way of example, claim 20 recites “a first planar layer comprising m optical paths formed on oppositely disposed surfaces of the first planar layer; and a second planar layer comprising n optical paths formed on oppositely disposed surfaces of the second planar layer” (emphasis added). By contrast, FIGS. 10-12 of Bowers show a 4x4 crossbar switch. Nowhere does Bowers teach or even suggest that optical paths are formed on oppositely disposed surfaces of two planar layers.

For at least these reasons, claim 20 and its dependent claims are allowable over Bowers.

II. New Claims

Newly added claims 31-33 recite elements not taught or suggested in Bowers. For example, claim 31 recites “a first planar layer comprising plural optical paths formed on two sides of the first planar layer; a second planar layer comprising plural optical paths formed on two sides of the second planar layer.” These elements are not taught or suggested in Bowers.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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